



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Program Updates for 2020 Summer Season

Traditional Camps and Other Recreation Programming Cancelled, Alternative Summer Programming Explored

Gaithersburg, MD (May 19, 2020) The City of Gaithersburg is committed to adhering to the stringent guidelines necessary to help slow the spread of infection and to protect the health and safety of residents, program participants, and employees. To ensure these measures, traditional summer camps and other recreation programs have been cancelled.

Cancellations include, but are not limited to, Camps Discovery, Imagination, Quest, Rainbow, Kinderplay, Endeavor, and Xcerler8, Youth Activity Programs (YAPs), Teen Youth Activity Programs (TAPs), Gaithersburg on the Go, Arts Barn camps (June and July), gymnastics classes, swim lessons and classes, and tennis and volleyball clinics.

Full refunds will be issued to those currently registered. Please allow up to four weeks for transactions to be processed. For current program offerings, please visit [RecXpress](#).

Also note that the Montgomery County Health Department has [announced](#) that public and private community pools, including the Gaithersburg Water Park, will not open Memorial Day weekend.

City staff are working diligently and creatively to offer a wide range of virtual programming, which will soon be available on the City's [website](#). As things are changing daily, please visit the website for the most up to date information and to register for virtual programs.

The City is also exploring the possibility of alternative summer camp programming. Details regarding these offerings are not yet available and are pending approval from state and local health agencies to move forward with operations. Should the City be allowed to offer in-person programs, below are some of the CDC-recommended safety guidelines that are being considered:

1. Limiting the number of campers at each site and within each unit.
2. Structuring games and activities in adherence with physical distancing guidelines.
3. Rigorous cleaning and sanitation practices for facilities and equipment.
4. Mandatory face coverings for all staff and campers.
5. Routine temperature and health checks.

6. Increased hand sanitizer stations and designated hand-washing times.
7. Modified hours.
8. Limited or no field trips or swimming.

If guidelines are amended and/or restrictions lifted, some of the precautions outlined above may change.

“This is certainly not the typical summer experience for our residents, and programs will look very different than they have in the past,” says Carolyn Muller, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture. “We know that families rely on us to keep children safe and supervised in the summer months, and we also know that children are anxious to get back to life and being with friends in this ‘new-normal’ environment. We are doing everything in our power to make both possible this summer.”

The City will continue to communicate updates as they become available at <https://gburg.md/Covid19>.

In addition to the cancellation of these programs, there will be no in-person events, programs, classes, sports, performances, or non-essential meetings through at least May 31, 2020. All buildings remain closed to public access, and most in-person services are suspended. That order may be extended based on Montgomery County Health Department guidance. The City is in the final stages of creating a Phased Service Restoration Plan for all City programs and services, and it will be made available on the City’s website upon completion. The plan will let residents know what to expect as we move through various stages of a return to “new normal” operations.

While events have been suspended, the City will recognize fallen soldiers and all who have defended our freedoms over the years with a virtual [Memorial Day Observance](#). The pre-recorded video observance will be shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

The situation is being monitored daily, with updates being made on the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @GburgMD. Gaithersburg has also established an [Emergency Assistance and Community Support](#) webpage, which is updated daily with resources and information for residents and businesses. A [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) with Gaithersburg-specific information is also available online.

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